



Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Steam Decentralization at Naval Station Great Lakes, Great Lakes, Illinois

The Proposed Action

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Navy is preparing a supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) for steam decentralization at Naval Station Great Lakes (NSGL), Great Lakes, Illinois. An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared for this project in 2011.

Since project initiation, safety concerns and repair issues regarding the historic original steam plant's (Building 11) brick chimney have been identified. Demolition of all but the 30' tall square base of the chimney would alleviate safety issues and is included as a new component in the demolition phase of the steam decentralization at NSGL. Demolition of the chimney was not included in the 2011 EA, therefore the Navy is preparing an SEA.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the steam decentralization project is to provide NSGL with more efficient heat and electricity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by lowering fuel usage, and lower operation and maintenance and annual recapitalization costs. The project was needed because the steam distribution system was inefficient, expensive to maintain and staff, and at the end of its service life. Partial demolition of the Building 11 chimney would alleviate a safety hazard at NSGL. Further, the chimney is not in use and long-term maintenance and repair of the structure would be cost-prohibitive. The proposed inclusion of the chimney demolition as part of the steam decentralization project would be consistent with the original project's purpose and need, as outlined in the 2011 EA.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

The Navy is considering two alternatives, the Action Alternative (demolition) that meets the purpose and need, and a No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the chimney would not be demolished, but all actions identified in the 2011 EA would still occur. No other reasonable action alternatives that would satisfy the purpose and need were identified.

Scope of the SEA

The SEA includes an analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with the Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative, and verifies that no changes to environmental conditions have occurred since the 2011 EA that would potentially alter the findings of that document for demolition-phase activities. The Navy will be consulting on the proposed action with key agencies and organizations, including the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer and local cultural resources groups.

Building 11 Chimney Proposed for Demolition



Building 11 Chimney Square Base to Remain



For more information or to provide comments on the proposed action, please contact:

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